The French Revolution
1789-1799

"The Storming of the Bastille," Jean-Pierre Louis Laurent Houel

AP European History

J.F. Walters (2010)

French Revolution: Essential Questions (1 of 2)

1. What were the causes of the French Revolution?
2. How and why did the nobles force the summoning of the Estates-General and, therefore, initiate the revolution in France?
3. What was the significance of the Storming of the Bastille?
4. How did the government implement ideas of the Enlightenment during the National Assembly phase of the French Revolution?
5. How did the other major powers of Europe view the ideas of the French Revolution? How did the French Revolution lead to war in Europe?
6. How and why did radicals abolish the monarchy?
7. How did the National Convention phase of the French Revolution implement ideas based on the Enlightenment?
8. What was the Committee of Public Safety and how did it lead to the Reign of Terror?

French Revolution: Essential Questions (2 of 2)

9. **What was the Thermidorian Reaction?**
10. **What role did women play in the French Revolution?**
11. **How did geography impact the French Revolution?**
12. **What did the French Revolution mean for the Roman Catholic Church in France?**

Causes of the Revolution in *Ancien Régime* France

***Journal 41*: The three legal estates in French society under the Old Regime bore little relationship to political, social and economic actualities.**

—Palmer Chapter 41 • pp. 349-55—

***Directions*; Using sentences or detailed bulleted notes, identify & explain the evidence Palmer uses to support the thesis listed above.**

Causes of the French Revolution: Political

Louis XV (1714-74)

- **incompetent leadership: Louis XV**
  - ✓ **great-grandson of Louis XIV**
  - ✓ **boy king: crowned king at age 5**
  - ✓ **challenged by nobles and *parlements* who sought to regain power that had been lost under the centralizing and absolutism policies of Louis XIII and Louis XIV**
  - ✓ **aware of problems in government and tax system**
    - **clergy and nobles were tax exempt, contributing to France's financial problems**
    - **Louis XV and his ministers were unable to reform the system due to resistance from the clergy and nobility**
  - ✓ **allegedly said: "après moi, le deluge" ("after me, the flood")**

Causes of the French Revolution: Political

- **incompetent leadership: Louis XVI**
  - ✓ **background & personal**
    - **grandson of Louis XV**
    - **became king when he was 20**
    - **lacked the intelligence and ambition of the early Bourbons**
    - **married Marie Antoinette when he was 15 (see next slide for more info.)**
  - ✓ **out of touch with French society**
    - **more interested in hunting and mechanical locks than ruling**
    - **travelled little and rarely left Versailles**

Louis XVI (1774-92)

Causes of the French Revolution: Political

- **incompetent leadership: Marie Antoinette**
  - ✓ **background**
    - Austrian daughter of Maria Theresa
    - wife and queen consort of Louis XVI
  - ✓ **detested by French society**
    - extravagant lifestyle: hair, jewelry, clothes
    - associated with questionable events, such as the Diamond Necklace Affair
    - accused of being a whore and sleeping with her son
    - out of touch with French economic and social realities: French believed she once said "Let them eat cake."

Marie Antoinette
by Élisabeth Vigée-Lebrun (1776)

Video Spotlight: Louis XVI & Marie

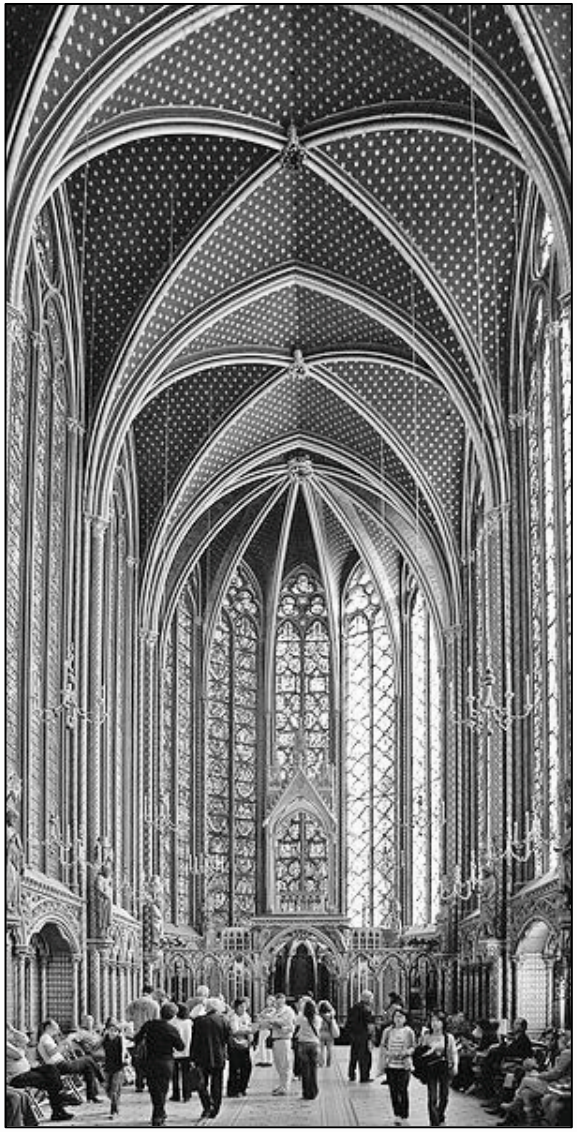
6:21

Causes of the French Revolution: Political

- **political abuses of the French government**
  - ✓**monarchy**
    - **political absolutism under the Bourbon dynasty**
    - **monarchy justified its right to rule based on divine right**
  - ✓**government bureaucrats and officeholders often received jobs based on birth, not talent**
  - ✓**abuse of the royal seal (*lettre de cachet*)**
  - ✓**no freedom of speech or press**
  - ✓**the Estates General (parliament) had not been called since 1614**
  - ✓**no right to petition the government with grievances (*cahier de doléances*, or *cahier*)**

Causes of the French Revolution: Economic & Social

- **rigid social class structure: Estate System**
  - ✓**First Estate: clergy**
    - approximately 0.5% of population
    - church owned approximately 10% of land in France
    - exempt from paying taxes to the government
    - collected the tithe (church tax) from the people
    - enjoyed special treatment before the law



Sainte-Chapelle, Paris

Causes of the French Revolution: Economic & Social

- **rigid social class structure: Estate System (cont'd)**
  - ✓**Second Estate: nobility (aristocracy)**
    - **approximately 2.5% of population**
    - **owned significant amount of land (per capita)**
    - **had made a resurgence in influence since the death of Louis XIV: played a significant role in the military, the bureaucracy, the church, and the *parlements***
    - **exempt from most taxes**
    - **enjoyed special treatment before the law**
    - **desired a government in which the monarchy was limited by the power of the nobility**

Causes of the French Revolution: Economic & Social

- **rigid social class structure: Estate System (cont'd)**
  - ✓**Third Estate: everyone else**
    - general overview: approximately 97% of the population, owned little land (per capita), held few government jobs and did not receive special treatment before the law
    - selected social groups within the Third Estate
      - **bourgeoisie**
        - "middle class": bankers, businessmen, lawyers, doctors, engineers, etc.
        - wealthy, ambitious, hardworking and often educated
        - resented paying taxes while having no say in government
        - desired economic change: wanted the government to take a laissez-faire approach to the economy
      - **peasantry**
        - farmers and agricultural workers (lived in the countryside); owned little land (per capita)
        - paid heavy taxes, were prone to agricultural disasters due to poor weather and had no say in government

Causes of the French Revolution: Economic & Social

- **rigid social class structure: Estate System (cont'd)**
  - ✓ **Third Estate: everyone else (cont'd)**
    - **selected social groups within the Third Estate (cont'd)**
      - **urban workers (*sans-culottes*)**
        - ➡ lived in Paris and other urban centers
        - ➡ employed in working class jobs such as dockworkers, chimney sweeps, small craftsmen, artisans, etc.
        - ➡ paid heavy taxes, were often poor, and had no say in government
    - **selected taxes paid by the Third Estate**
      - **tithe: church tax paid to the Roman Catholic Church**
      - **taille: tax on land**
      - **corvée: forced labor on roads**
      - **gabelle: tax on certain salt purchases**
      - **métayers: tax paid by sharecroppers**

A cartoon depicting the tax burden bore by the Third Estate

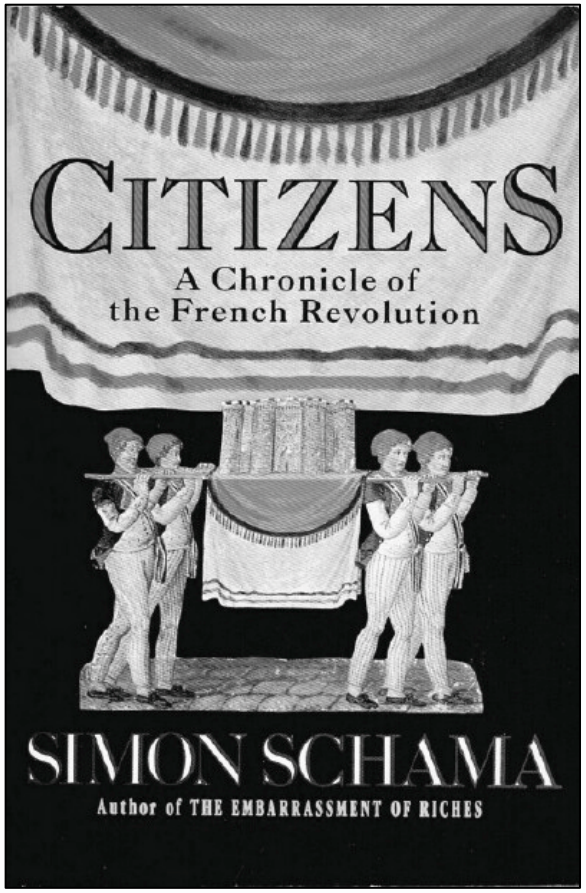
Causes of the French Revolution: Economic & Social

- **bankruptcy of the French government**
  - ✓ **antiquated tax system**
    - **wealthiest people often did not pay taxes while the poorest members of society shouldered the tax burden**
    - **many 18th century attempts to reform the tax system all failed due to resistance from the nobility who did not want to pay taxes without a say in government (Law, Maupeou, Turgot, Necker, Calonne)**
  - ✓ **debt from the various wars of the 18th century and French support for the colonists in the American Revolution**
  - ✓ **agricultural failures**
    - **harsh winters and hot summers (most notably in the 1780s)**
    - **poor harvests, which led to rising food prices, famine and less tax revenue**
  - ✓ **extravagant building projects**

Causes of the French Revolution: Intellectual

- **The Enlightenment**
  - ✓ philosophical ideas of John Locke, Jean Jacques Rousseau, Voltaire, Adam Smith and others
    - ideas inspired many to seek reform to government, economy and society
    - ideas spread via Diderot's Encyclopedia, plays, *salons*
  - ✓ enlightened ideas appealed to the bourgeoisie and even a few reform-minded members of the nobility and clergy (ex., Marquis de La Fayette)
- **revolutionary precedents**
  - ✓ Glorious Revolution in England (1688)
  - ✓ American Revolution in North America (1775-83)

Rousseau & The French Revolution: Reflections On



"Historians have long been concerned to judge Rousseau's influence on the revolutionary generation by gauging that generation's familiarity or unfamiliarity with the formal works of political theory, in particular The Social Contract. While there is growing evidence that this work was in fact read and understood before the Revolution, it is undoubtedly true that it never reached the huge and adoring readership of his educational 'biographies' Emile and Nouvelle Héloise. But to assume that those works had little influence on political allegiance is to adopt a much too narrow definition of the word *political*. As much as his writings dealing with sovereignty and the rights of man, Rousseau's works dealing with personal virtue and the morality of social relations sharpened distaste for the status quo and defined a new allegiance. He created, in fact, a community of young believers. Their faith was in the possibility of a collective moral and political rebirth in which the innocence of childhood might be preserved into adulthood and through which virtue and freedom would be mutually sustained."

Source: Citizens: A Chronicle of the French Revolution, Simon Schama (New York: Vintage Books, 1989), p. 161.

The French Revolution

***Journal 42*: The nobility forced the summoning of the Estates-General and in this way initiated the revolution.**

—Palmer Chapter 42 • pp. 355-70—

***Directions*; Using sentences or detailed bulleted notes, identify & explain the evidence Palmer uses to support the thesis listed above.**

France: On the Eve of the Revolution

Marquis de La Fayette:
instrumental in bringing French support to the American colonists fighting Britain

- **financial crisis of the 1780s: government expenditure greater than incoming revenue**
  - ✓ **outmoded tax system**
  - ✓ **costly wars**
  - ✓ **general economic problems**
    - **agricultural failures due to weather-related factors pushed up the price of bread**
    - **economic slow-down after 18th century wars**
    - **many provincial French citizens flocked to Paris in hopes of better economic opportunities**
  - ✓ **many nobles had recently begun to collect "feudal dues"**
    - **feudal dues: back taxes that allegedly had not been paid by a peasant's ancestors**
    - **peasants resented the collection of feudal dues**

France: On the Eve of the Revolution

- attempts to reform the tax and legal system by Louis XVI all failed
  - ✓failed reformers: Jacques Necker, Charles Calonne, Loménie de Brienne
  - ✓Calonne's radical reform proposal rejected
    - general tax paid by all (no exemptions)
    - reduction of indirect taxes and internal tariffs
    - local representatives assemblies, composed of all classes of society
  - ✓resistance to reform from nobles
    - reforms struck at the traditional privileges without compensation in power
    - reforms sought to overturn the traditional Estates system

France: On the Eve of the Revolution

- **Estates General to be reconvened: with government at a standstill, Louis XVI agreed to reconvene France's parliament**
  - ✓ **promise made in July 1788 for a May 1789 reconvening**
  - ✓ **Louis invited estates to elect representatives and collect grievances (*cahier de doléances, or cahiers*)**
  - ✓ **called for a study to make proposals on how Estates General should conduct itself (it had not met since 1614)**
    - **many wanted to retain the traditional system where the three Estates met and voted in three separate chambers with one vote per Estate (see next slide)**
    - **many wanted a new system where all representatives met in one chamber with one vote per representative**
  - ✓ **Parlement of Paris eventually ruled that traditional system would be retained**

France: On the Eve of the Revolution

Traditional System of Seating & Voting in the Estates General

	Percent of Population (approx.)	Representatives in the Estates General	Votes in the Estates General (per Estate)
First Estate	0.5%	300	1
Second Estate	2.5%	300	1
Third Estate	97%	600	1

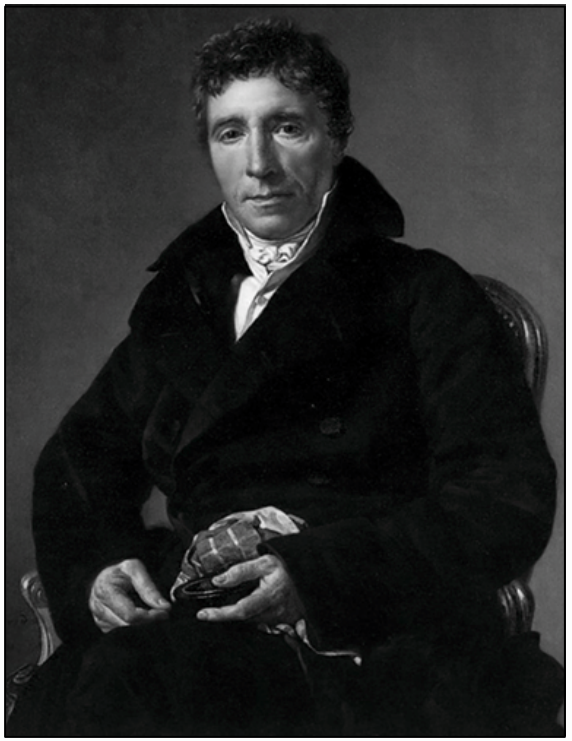
France: On the Eve of the Revolution

- capitalizing on France's financial collapse, the nobles pushed France toward revolution via the Estates General
  - ✓ the nobles wanted to push forward their reform program
    - nobility was willing to surrender their tax privilege, but...
    - ...in exchange they wanted to dominate the government
  - ✓ "It [the nobility] had forced the summoning of the Estates General, and in this way, the French nobility initiated the Revolution. The Revolution began as another victory in the aristocratic resurgence against the absolutism of the king."—R.R. Palmer, A History of the Modern World, 10/e
- the Third Estate, however, did not want to be dominated by the nobility

The nobles looked to limit the power of Louis XVI

France: On the Eve of the Revolution

- **Abbé Sieyès' protest**
  - ✓ **Sieyès: a member of the clergy sympathetic to the Third Estate**
  - ✓ **published a pamphlet: "What is the Third Estate?" (January 1789)**
    - **declared the nobility was a useless caste that could be abolished without loss**
    - **the Third Estate represented France and was essential**
    - **the people of France ought to be the sovereign rulers of France**
    - **most famous part of the pamphlet**
      - **"What is the Third Estate?—Everything!"**
      - **"What has it been until now?—Nothing!"**
      - **"What does it ask?—To be something!"**



Abbé Sieyès
by Jacques-Louis David (1817)

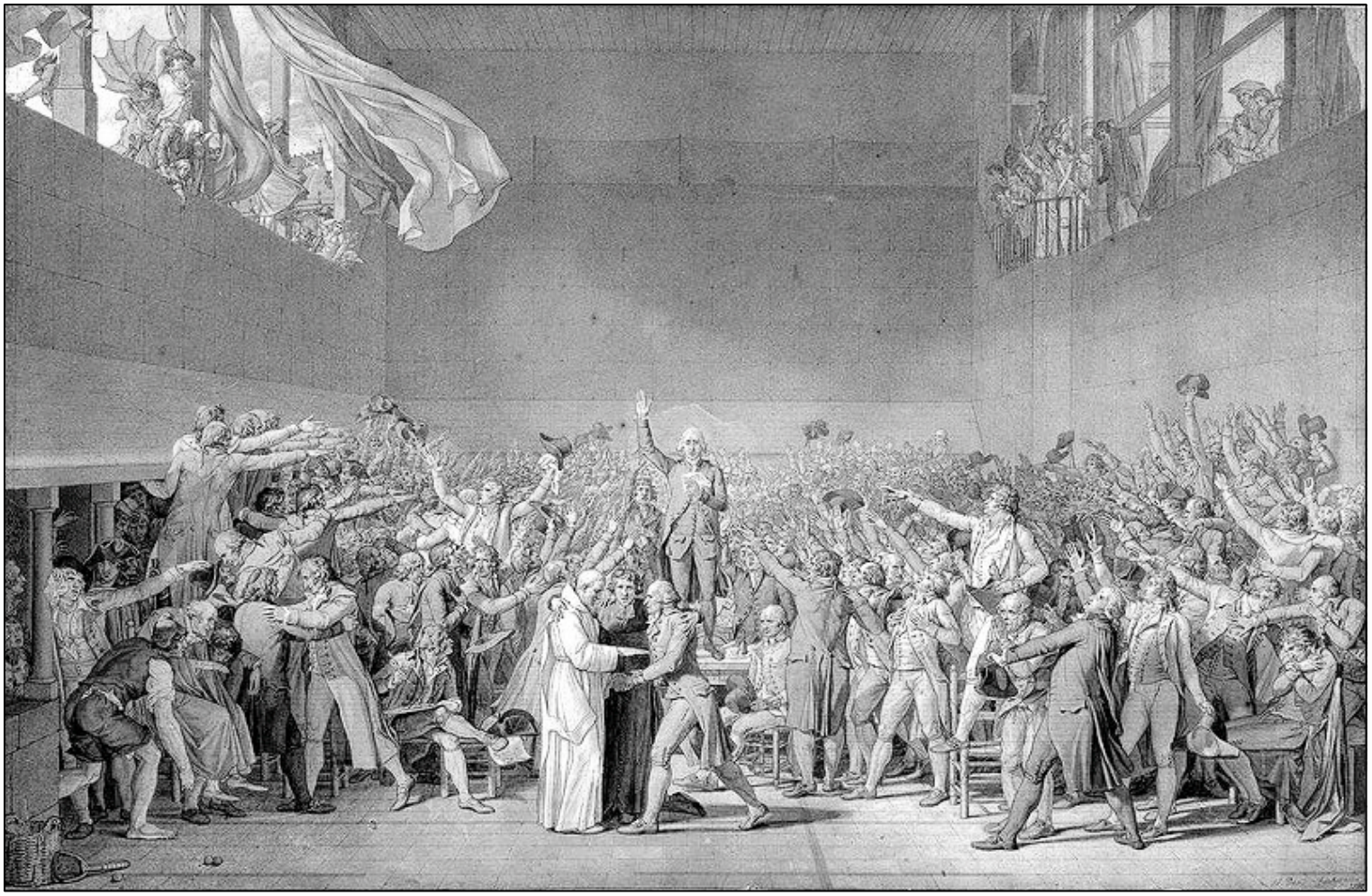
France: The Revolution Takes Form

- **Estates General reconvened (May 1789)**
  - ✓ **Estates General met at the Palace of Versailles**
  - ✓ **Third Estate insisted all the Estates meet together in one chamber and vote as individuals**
  - ✓ **in a show of solidarity, some members of the clergy and nobility sat with the Third Estate**
    - **Abbé Sieyès**
    - **Marquis de Lafayette**
  - ✓ **Third Estate changed its name to "National Assembly," reflecting its new composition (this outraged the First and Second Estates)**
  - ✓ **under pressure from the First and Second Estates, Louis XVI closed the hall where the National Assembly was due to convene**
    - **National Assembly met in an empty indoor tennis court at Versailles**
    - **led to the Tennis Court Oath**

France: The Revolution Takes Form

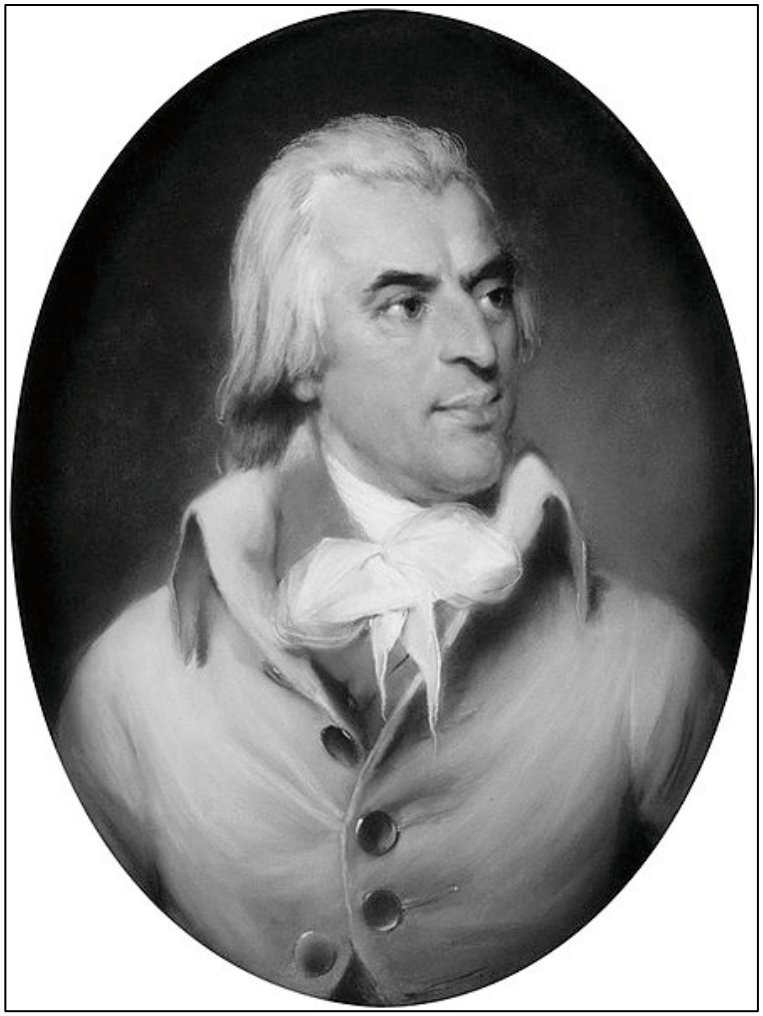
- **Tennis Court Oath (June 1789)**
  - ✓**background**
    - National Assembly was closed out of their meeting location by Louis XVI, who was under pressure from the privileged Estates
    - National Assembly met in an open indoor tennis court on the grounds at Versailles
  - ✓**the Tennis Court Oath**
    - National Assembly pledged not to disband until a new constitution had been written for France
    - by taking the Tennis Court Oath, the National Assembly had in essence declared itself sovereign although it had no legal authority to do so
  - ✓**Louis XVI's reaction to the Tennis Court Oath**
    - summoned 16,000 troops to Versailles to restore order
    - by ordering in troops, Louis XVI lost the support of the bourgeoisie, who for centuries had supported the monarchy
    - France moved closer to violent revolution

On the Eve of the Revolution



"The Oath Being Taken on the Tennis Court" (sketch)
Jacques-Louis David, 1790-91

French Revolution Begins



Arthur Young
(1741-1820)

"Everything conspires to render the present period in France critical: the [lack] of bread is terrible; accounts arrive in every moment from the provinces of riots and disturbances, and calling in the military, to preserve the peace of the markets."

—Arthur Young
English writer on agriculture and economics
Travels in France During the Years 1787-1789

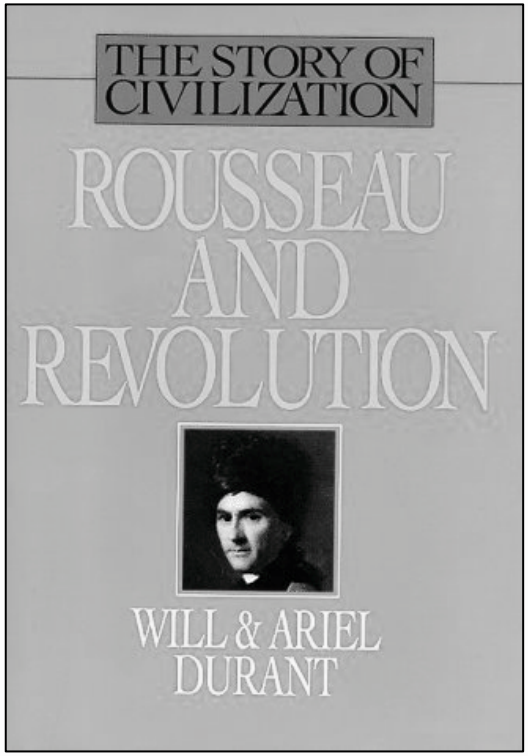
French Revolution Begins

“Arrest of de Launay”
Jean-Baptiste Lallemand, 1790

French Revolution Begins

- **Storming of the Bastille (14 July 1789)**
  - ✓ **background**
    - **Bastille: medieval royal fortress built to hold prisoners, store weapons and intimidate Parisians**
    - **in the spring of 1789, cannon were mounted on the fortress**
    - **dismissal of Jacques Necker, a reformed-minded financial minister, on 11 July 1789 created discontent among many in Paris**
  - ✓ **event: symbolic beginning of the French Revolution**
    - **mobs attacked the Bastille after a small crowd demanded the removal of the cannon from the Bastille and the surrender of its weapons**
    - **some officials at the fortress were murdered before the fortress was surrendered to the mob (the governor of the Bastille, the Marquis de Launay, was murdered shortly thereafter)**
    - **prisoners (few in number) were liberated from the Bastille**
  - ✓ **results**
    - **the French Revolution had spread to include the lower classes of society (not just politicians in the National Assembly fighting a political struggle in the French parliament)**
    - **fearing the worst, Louis XVI recognized the severity of the crisis and, as a result, ordered the First and Second Estates to join the National Assembly in order to address France's financial and security issues**

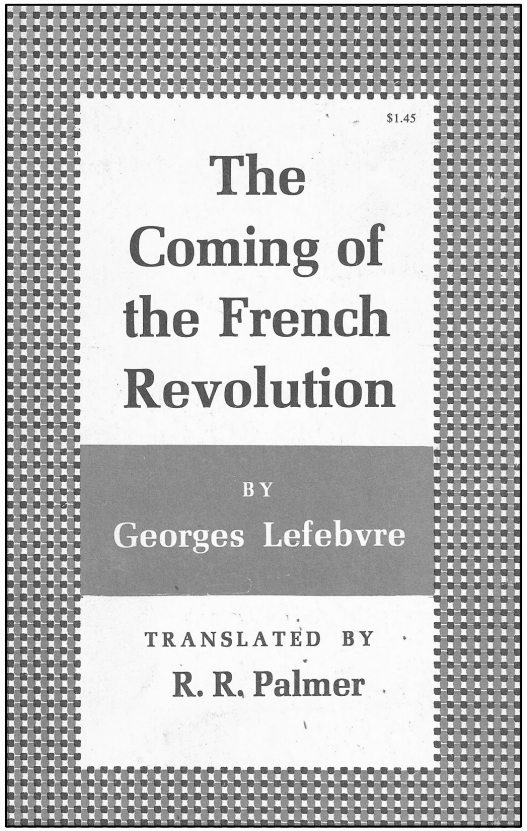
The Storming of the Bastille: Reflections On



"Early on July 14 a crowd of eight thousand men invaded the Hôtel des Invalides, and captured 32,000 muskets, some powder, and twelves pieces of artillery. Suddenly someone cried out, "To the Bastille!" Why the Bastille? Not to release its prisoners, who were only seven; and generally, since 1715, it had been used as a place of genteel confinement for the well-to-do. But this massive fortress, one hundred feet high, with walls thirty feet thick, and surrounded by a moat seventy-five feet wide, had long been a symbol of despotism; it stood in the public mind for a thousand prisons and secret dungeons; some of the cahiers had already demanded its destruction. Probably what moved the crowd was the knowledge that the Bastille had pointed some cannon at the Rue and Faubourg St.-Antoine, a quarter seething with revolutionary sentiment. Perhaps most important of all, the Bastille was said to contain a great store of arms and ammunition, especially powder, of which the rebels had little. In the fortress was a garrison of eighty-two French soldiers and thirty-two Swiss Guards, under the command of of the Marquis de Launay, a man of mild temper but popularly reported to be a monster of cruelty."

Source: The Story of Civilization: Rousseau and Revolution, Will Durant (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1957), p. 962.

The Storming of the Bastille: Reflections On



"Thus fell the Bastille, through the ineptitude of its governor [Bernard-René de Launay], the defection of royal troops and the heroic tenacity of a few hundred assailants. The treachery attributed to de Launay confirmed the fear of an aristocratic conspiracy. No one supposed that the Bastille itself was at stake in the struggle, and no one at first thought that its fall would settle the issue. The panic continued during the night of July 14-15. [Raymond] Desèze, who in 1793 was to be defense counsel for the king, and who had been active in organizing the militia, wrote on July 18: 'We all expected a fight with regular troops, in which we might be slaughtered.' Nevertheless, on the next day the Paris revolutionaries and their choice fell on [Jean-Sylvain] Bailly. They offered La Fayette command of the National Guard. La Fayette gave the citizen soldiers, for their insignia, a cockade in the colors of the city of Paris, red and blue, between which he placed white, the color of the king. The tricolor flag, emblem of the Revolution, was a synthesis of the old France and the new."

Source: The Coming of the French Revolution, Georges Lefebvre, translated by R.R. Palmer (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1967), p. 116.

The National Assembly (1789-92): Stage #1

- **the first stage of the French Revolution (Stage #1)**
- **government: limited monarchy**
  - ✓ **dominated by the legislative body known as the National Assembly**
  - ✓ **Jacobin Club (or Jacobins): political party in the National Assembly who pushed the revolution to initiate reforms in France**
  - ✓ **National Assembly later changed name to Constituent Assembly and then to Legislative Assembly**
- **initiated widespread reforms**
  - ✓ **reforms of the National Assembly were particularly active in the first couple years of the government**
  - ✓ **many of the reforms were in the spirit of the Enlightenment**

Louis XVI: No longer an absolute monarch

Stage #1: The Great Fear

- **period of insecurity after the storming of the Bastille (July-August 1789)**
  - ✓ **caused by violence and destruction, largely in French countryside**
    - **peasants attacked manor houses of nobles**
    - **peasants burned records of feudal dues and other taxes (records were often located in parish churches)**
  - ✓ **precarious political state of French government intensified fear**
- **Reforms of 4 August 1789: National Assembly convened a special meeting to deal with the Great Fear**
  - ✓ **abolished feudal privileges and ended the payment of feudal dues**
  - ✓ **ended payment of tithes**
  - ✓ **peasants stopped looting and burning, ending Great Fear**

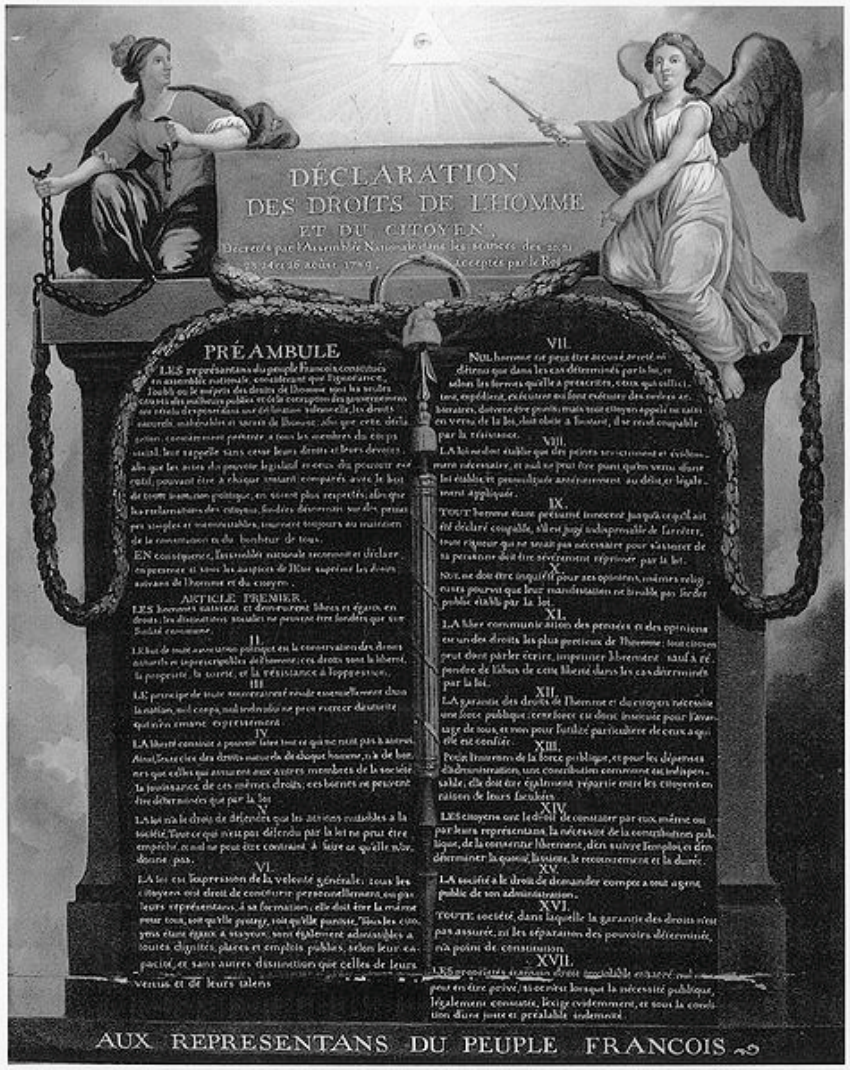
Stage #1: The March on Versailles

- **causes**
  - ✓ **continued rising food prices and shortages of bread**
  - ✓ **Parisian working class had almost no satisfactory way of expressing themselves for redress of grievances**
  - ✓ **many from the working class blamed Marie Antoinette and her lifestyle for their problems**
- **event (October 1789)**
  - ✓ **a mob of Parisian women—led by many wives of fish mongers—marched to the royal palace in Versailles; some men in mob**
  - ✓ **some in mob broke into the palace itself**
  - ✓ **demands: lower bread prices and return of royal family to Paris (Tuileries Palace)**
- **results**
  - ✓ **French monarchy forced to relocate back to Paris; Louis & Marie were put under house arrest and, as a result, effectively lost all political power**
  - ✓ **many members of Parisian working class remained dissatisfied with the reforms of the National Assembly; many turned more radical (see *sans-culottes*)**

Stage #1: The March on Versailles

An engraving of the the March on Versailles

Stage #1: Enlightened Reforms of National Assembly



- **Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (August 1789)**
  - ✓ **outlined the natural rights of French men**
  - ✓ **inspired by enlightened thinkers such as Locke, Voltaire, Rousseau and others**
  - ✓ **short comings: did not address rights of women or slaves**

Stage #1: Enlightened Reforms of National Assembly

- **Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (cont'd)**
  - ✓ **Men are born free and equal in rights. Social distinctions may be founded only upon the general good (Article 1)**
  - ✓ **The aim of all political association is the preservation of the natural and imprescriptible rights of man (2)**
  - ✓ **Liberty consists in the freedom to do everything that injures no one else…(3)**
  - ✓ **Law is the expression of the general will…(6)**
  - ✓ **No one shall be disquieted on account of his opinions, including his religious views…(10)**
  - ✓ **The free communication of ideas and opinions is on the most precious of the rights of man. Every citizen may, accordingly, speak, write, and print with freedom…. (11)**
  - ✓ **Since property is an inviolable right, no one shall be deprived thereof except where public necessity, legally determined, shall clearly demand it…(17)**

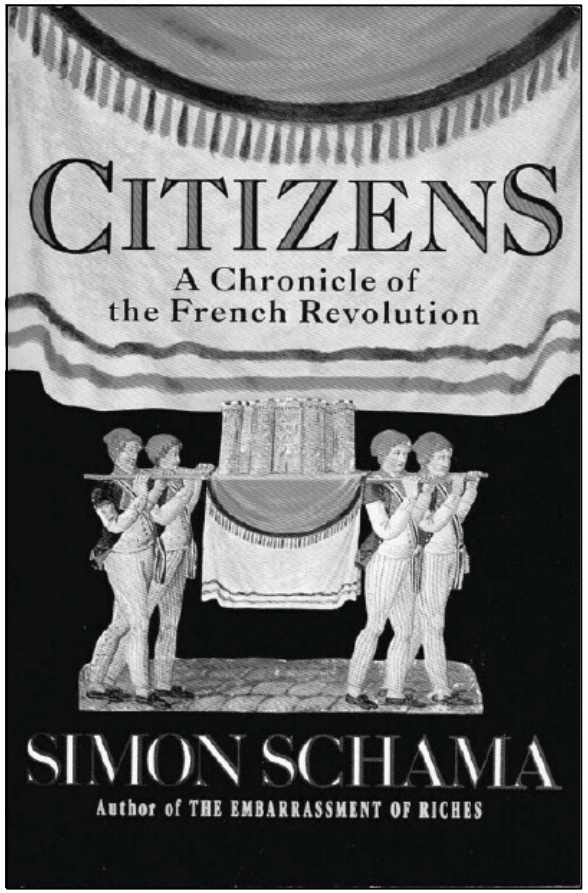
Stage #1: Enlightened Reforms of National Assembly

- **Nationalization of Church lands (Nov. 1789)**
  - ✓ **used sale of former Church lands to pay off national debt**
  - ✓ **government began to issues *assignats* (bonds) that represented the value of the property; *assignats* were eventually used as a de facto paper currency**
  - ✓ **increased momentum of revolution (more people had economic interest to maintain revolutionary changes)**
- **Civil Constitution of the Clergy (1790)**
  - ✓ **Roman Catholic clergy to be elected by people they served; non-Catholics could take part in elections**
  - ✓ **clergy received pay from state**
  - ✓ **clergy took an oath of allegiance to French state and Civil Constitution of the Clergy**

Stage #1: Enlightened Reforms of National Assembly

- **abolished provincial boundaries and established *départments* (still used today)**
- **increased economic integration by eliminating many internal tariffs**
- **introduced the metric system to France (it would be officially adopted in 1799)**
- **introduced guillotine**
  - ✓ **supposed to be a painless and humane way of executing a criminal**
  - ✓ **ended social distinctions in execution**
  - ✓ **abused later by the National Convention (1792-95)**

The Guillotine: Reflections On



"....In December 1789, Dr. Joseph-Ignace Guillotin, deputy of the National Assembly, had proposed a reform of capital punishment in keeping with the equal status accorded all citizens by the Declaration of the Rights of Man. Instead of barbaric practices which degraded the spectators as much as the criminals, a method of surgical instantaneity was to be adopted. Not only would the decapitation spare the prisoner gratuitous pain, it would offer to common criminals the dignified execution hitherto reserved for the privileged orders. The proposal also removed the stigma of guilt by association from the family of the condemned and, most importantly, protected the property from confiscation required by traditional practice."

Source: Citizens: A Chronicle of the French Revolution, Simon Schama (New York: Vintage Books, 1989), p. 619.

Stage #1: The Ideas of Olympe de Gouges

- **background**
  - ✓ **born Marie Gouze (1748)**
  - ✓ **writer and political activist**
  - ✓ **Girondist during the French Revolution**
- **wrote Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen (1791)**
  - ✓ **reaction to the National Assembly's "Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen" (1789)**
  - ✓ **argued that although men and women were different they ought to have the same protection under the law**
  - ✓ **called for women to have the right to divorce**
  - ✓ **called for the legal recognition of illegitimate children**
- **other ideas**
  - ✓ **called for the abolition of slavery**
  - ✓ **warned of the dangers of extremism in the French Revolution**
- **arrest and death**
  - ✓ **eventually arrested for criticizing the radical position of Robespierre and his policies**
  - ✓ **executed by guillotine in 1793 during the Reign of Terror (see later notes)**

Olympe de Gouges

Stage #1: Revolutionaries and War with Europe

- **revolutionaries sought to export enlightened and revolutionary ideas to rest of Europe, remaking it using the French model**
- **slogan: liberty, equality, fraternity**
- **adopted Tri-Color as French flag**
- **Girondin**
  - ✓ **political faction of Jacobin party in France**
  - ✓ **sought international revolution: the only way to secure change in France was to spread it elsewhere**

Stage #1: Revolutionaries and War with Europe

***Journal 43*: When the war came, the lower classes rallied to the Revolution but not the revolutionary government.**

—Palmer Chapter 43 • pp. 370-74—

***Directions*; Using sentences or detailed bulleted notes, identify & explain the evidence Palmer uses to support the thesis listed above.**

Stage #1: Revolutionaries and war with Europe

- **anti-revolutionary Europe**
  - ✓ **monarchies and aristocracies in Europe viewed ideas and reforms of French Revolution as a threat to their power, wealth and status**
  - ✓ ***Émigrés***
    - **emigrés: nobles who fled France**
    - **told horror stories and pleaded for Europe to crush revolution**
  - ✓ **Edmund Burke in <u>Reflections on the Revolution in France</u> (1790)**
    - **French had gone too far**
    - **French Revolution would lead to anarchy and, eventually, dictatorship**

Edmund Burke

Stage #1: Revolutionaries and war with Europe

- **War began in April 1792**
  - ✓ **France declared war on Austria**
  - ✓ **Prussia joined Austria in fighting France**
  - ✓ **France initially faired poorly against European forces**
  - ✓ **Brunswick Manifesto (1792)**
    - **Austria and Prussia declared that if any harm was done to French royal family, the Austro-Prussian forces would destroy Paris**
    - **Manifesto played into hands of radical Jacobins who wanted an intensification of war against Europe**
  - ✓ **French soldiers marched to song *Marseillaise*— a call to war against tyranny**
  - ✓ **war would rage in Europe until 1815**

Stage #1: Reasons for the Fall of the National Assembly

- **poor showing of French military in war**
- **dissatisfaction of French lower classes at home who believed the revolution so far had favored the propertied classes**
  - ✓ **in the hands of *émigrés*, hard currency (gold) had left France**
  - ✓ ***assignats* (paper money) was uncertain as it continued to lose value**
  - ✓ **peasants not happy with distribution of land**
  - ✓ ***sans-culottes* (city workers) demanded a revolution more receptive to their economic and social needs**

Stage #1: Reasons for the Fall of the National Assembly

- **Continued violence**
  - ✓ **September Massacres (1792): nobles, priests and other "counterrevolutionaries" were butchered**
  - ✓ **violence in working class districts of Paris**
- **Jacobins in the radical "Mountain" faction of the Jacobin Club pushed for a more extreme revolution (see next two slides)**
  - ✓ **Maximilien Robespierre**
  - ✓ **Georges Danton**
  - ✓ **Jean-Paul Marat**

Georges Danton: the Revolution gets ugly

Stage #1: Reasons for the Fall of the National Assembly

Marquis de Condorcet: the Girondist was arrested by the Mountain in 1794

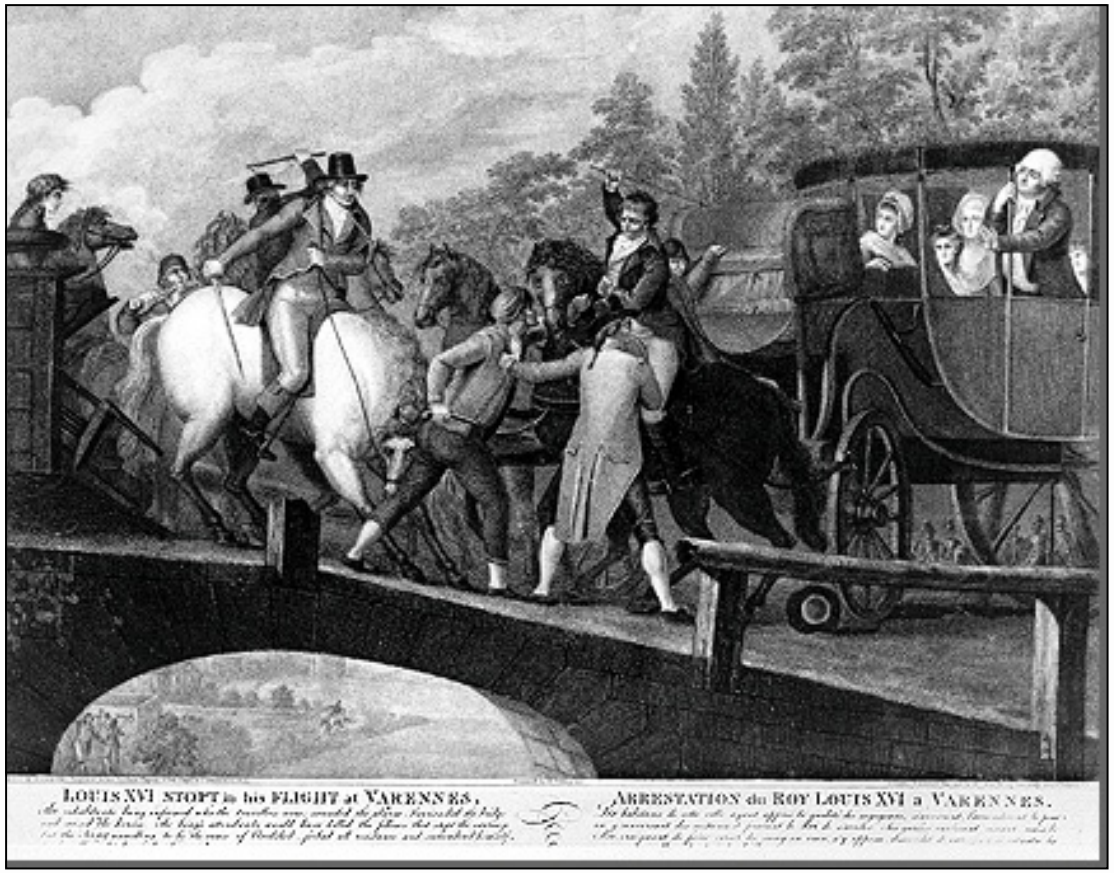
- **splits emerged in Jacobins: Girondin faction**
  - ✓ **representatives of provincial cities**
  - ✓ **generally sought a limited constitutional monarchy**
  - ✓ **called for international revolution to secure rights at home**

Stage #1: Reasons for the Fall of the National Assembly

- **splits emerged in Jacobins: Mountain faction**
  - ✓ **one of the most radical elements of the French Revolution**
  - ✓ **sat in the high seats of the National Assembly (later the National Convention)**
  - ✓ **representatives of Paris**
  - ✓ **desired democratic republicanism**
  - ✓ **supported by *sans-culottes* (Parisian working class)**
  - ✓ **called for a strong military effort against European powers**

Stage #1: Reasons for the Fall of the National Assembly

- **Loyalty of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette called into question**



English painting depicting the capture of Louis XVI

- ✓ **discovery of letters to the Austrian monarchy that were sympathetic to the anti-revolutionary cause in France**
- ✓ **Louis and Marie arrested on so-called "Flight to Varennes" (1791)**
- ✓ **both Louis and Marie eventually would be put on trial for treason**

Stage #1: Fall of the National Assembly

- **National Assembly dissolved itself (August 1792)**
  - ✓ **National Assembly could not be a limited monarchy with an untrustworthy monarch and, as a result, dissolved itself**
  - ✓ **National Convention, led by the Mountain faction of the Jacobins, took control of the National Convention**
  - ✓ **Louis XVI put on trial for treason**

Maximilien Robespierre would come to dominate the National Convention phase of the French Revolution

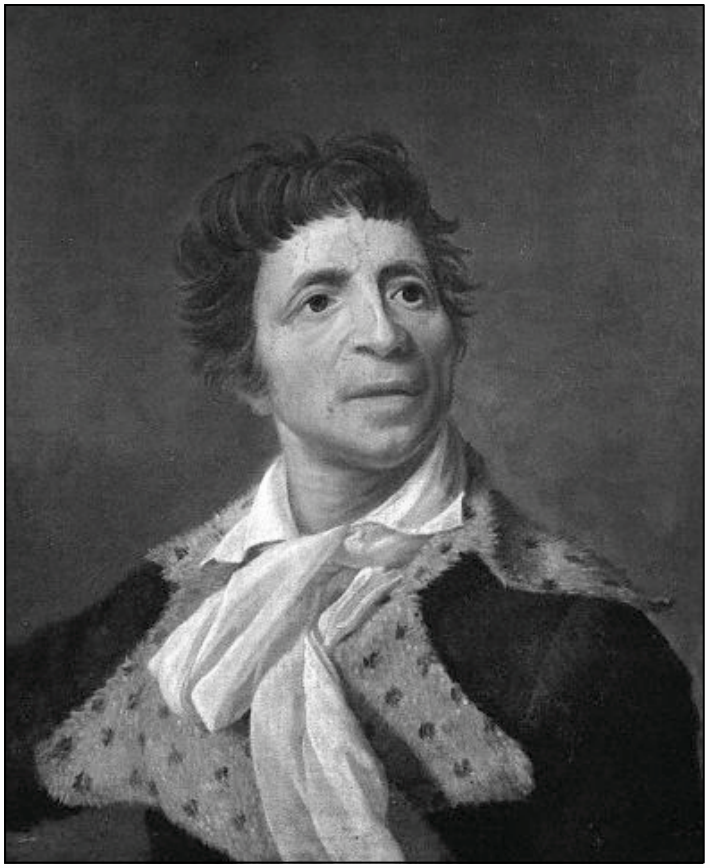
The National Convention (1792-95): Stage #2

***Journal 44*: The militancy and activism of the sans-culottes pressed the Revolution forward.**

—Palmer Chapter 44 • pp. 347-83—

***Directions*; Using sentences or detailed bulleted notes, identify & explain the evidence Palmer uses to support the thesis listed above.**

Stage #2: National Convention Basics



Jean Paul Marat: one of the leading members of the Mountain

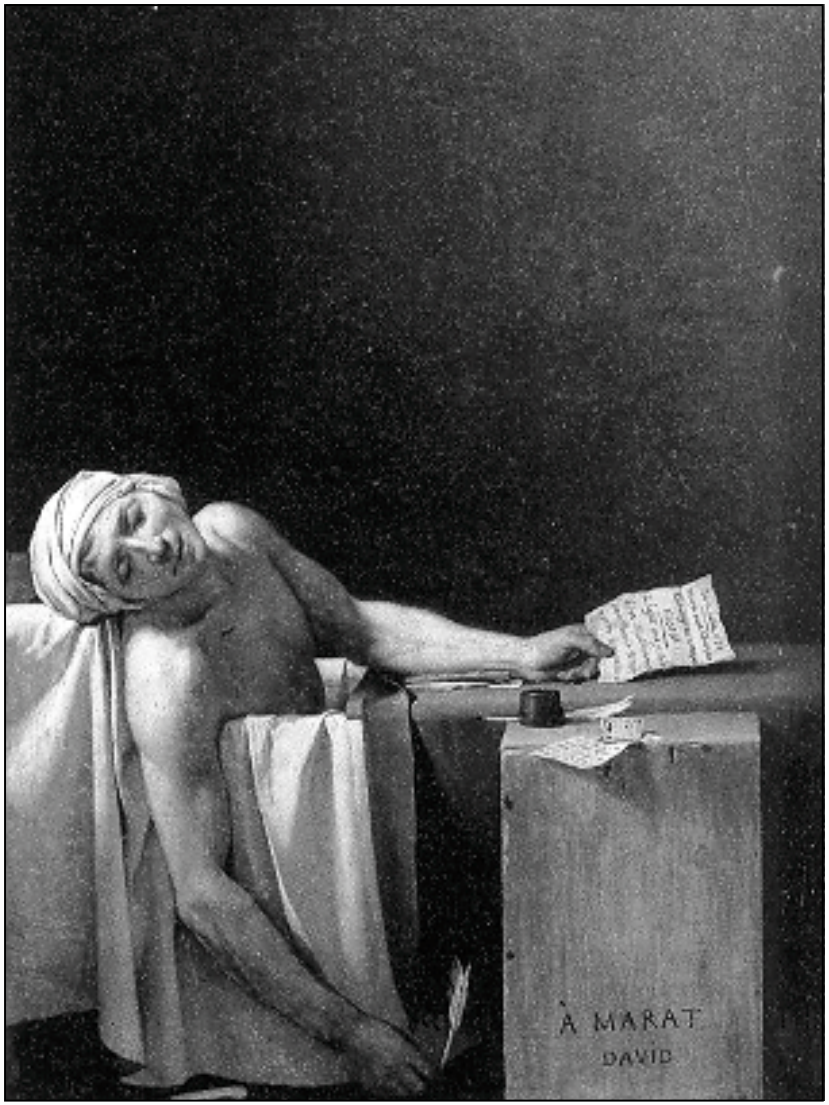
- **republic**
  - ✓ **no monarchy**
  - ✓ **a small group of radicals within the National Convention served as France's executive**
  - ✓ **government would often be called the "French Republic" and, later, as the "First French Republic"**
- **most radical phase of the French Revolution**
  - ✓ **government dominated by radicals in the Mountain faction of the Jacobin Club**
  - ✓ **implemented radical political and social policies**
  - ✓ **initiated the Reign of Terror**
  - ✓ **sought to spread their revolutionary ideas to the rest of Europe**

Stage #2: National Convention Basics

- **execution of Louis XVI**
  - ✓ **one of the first acts of the Convention**
  - ✓ **Louis XVI: found guilty of treason and later executed by guillotine**
  - ✓ **symbolic statement by the Convention that the monarchy was over and France was a republic**

Execution of Louis XVI (1793)

Stage #2: Murder of Jean-Paul Marat (1973)



Charlotte Corday
Marat's Killer

"The Death of Marat" (1793)
Jacques-Louis David

Stage #2: Maximilien Robespierre

- **most prominent figure of Convention**
- **background**
  - ✓ **attorney**
  - ✓ **belonged to the Mountain faction of Jacobins**
  - ✓ **his supporters called him "The Incorruptible"**
- **major idea: sought to build a "Republic of Virtue" for France**
  - ✓ **based on Robespierre's interpretations of the ideas of the *philosophes*, especially Rousseau**
  - ✓ **believed government should be based on the idea of virtue: unselfish public spirit and civic zeal**
  - ✓ **called for democratic republic made up of good citizens and honest men**
- **eventually became the head of the Committee of Public Safety**

Stage #2: Enlightened Accomplishments of National Convention

- **reorganization of the French language**
  - ✓**titles were abolished: everyone referred to as citizen**
    - **male: *citoyen***
    - **female: *citoyenne***
  - ✓**banned use of word *vous* ("you" formal): everyone was to be referred in the familiar *tu***

Stage #2: Enlightened Accomplishments of National Convention

- **Revolutionary Calendar adopted**
  - ✓**religiously-based calendar abandoned**
  - ✓**1792 became Year I of the Revolution**
  - ✓**re-named months according to nature**
    - ***Ventose* (windy): March**
    - ***Floréal* (flowering): May**
    - ***Thermidor* (hot): July**
    - ***Fructidor* (harvest): October**
  - ✓**7-day week became a 10-day week called *décade***

Floréal

Stage #2: Enlightened Accomplishments of National Convention

- **established *levée en masse*: conscription army & society**
  - ✓ **Lazare Carnot: Minister of War who organized and administered the *levée en masse***
  - ✓ **used to fight war against Europe**
  - ✓ **all citizens drafted into war effort: democratization of war**
    - **younger men: soldiers**
    - **women: make uniforms, boots**
    - **scientists: weaponry development**
    - **elderly and children: run farms, manufacture weapons, make clothes**

Stage #2: Enlightened Accomplishments of National Convention

- **De-Christianization of France: The Religion of Reason**
  - ✓ argued Christian church was irrational, feudal and standing in the way of a Rousseau-inspired civil religion
  - ✓ many in Mountain sought to destroy Catholic Church and de-Christianize France
  - ✓ introduced a deistic faith called "The Cult of the Supreme Being"
    - God was recognized
    - soul was declared immortal
  - ✓ Notre Dame Cathedral re-named "Temple of Reason," with a large mountain-like structure built on the altar
  - ✓ closed churches throughout France and priests forced to marry
  - ✓ secular holidays celebrating the Convention were established
- **Results of the Religion of Reason**
  - ✓ more popular in Paris than in provincial France
  - ✓ alienated many citizens in the French countryside and weakened support for the National Convention

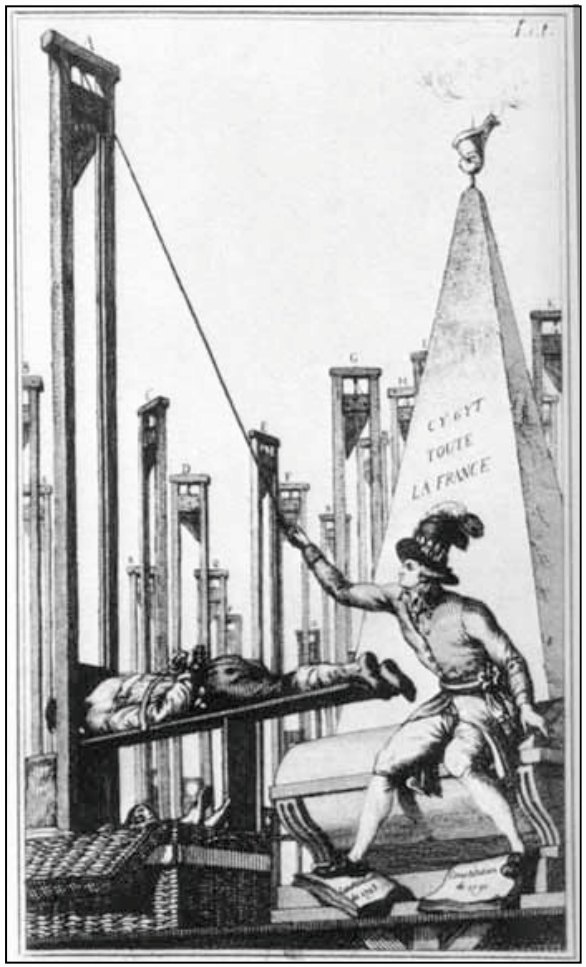
Stage #2: The Committee of Public Safety & the Reign of Terror

- **Committee of Public Safety: background**
  - ✓ established by the Convention to help win the war against Europe by fighting perceived counter-revolutionaries at home
  - ✓ Committee made up of 12 people, eventually led by Robespierre
  - ✓ served as the *de facto* executive arm of the National Convention
- **initiated the Reign of Terror (1793-94): "The Terror"**
  - ✓ bloodiest period of the French Revolution
  - ✓ sought to weed out perceived enemies of the Revolution
  - ✓ worked on the denunciation principle
  - ✓ thousands of French citizens executed during The Terror
    - estimates range from 16,000 to 40,000 killed
    - many were executed by guillotine (referred to as "The National Razor")
    - no social class was exempt
  - ✓ Reign of Terror symbolically began with the execution of Marie Antoinette
  - ✓ famous people executed during The Terror: Antoine Lavoisier (chemist), Olympe de Gouges (feminist), Madame Roland (feminist), Madame du Barry (former mistress of Louis XV)

Stage #2: The Committee of Public Safety & the Reign of Terror

Marie Antoinette leaves the Conciergerie on her way to execution.

Stage #2: The Decline and Fall of the National Convention



Robespierre killing the executioner

- **Reign of Terror ultimately led to the downfall of the Convention**
  - ✓ **created fear and insecurity throughout France**
  - ✓ **Revolution devoured its own children: Terror killed fellow revolutionaries**
- **led to the Thermidorian Reaction (Summer 1795)**
  - ✓ **Robespierre guillotined and Reign of Terror ended**
  - ✓ **collapse of the National Convention**
  - ✓ **Convention replaced by The Directory**
  - ✓ **politics shifted back toward the moderate middle**
  - ✓ **power of Committee of Public Safety scaled back**

The Directory (1795-99): Stage #3

- **background**
  - ✓ **government was created in the wake of the collapse of the National Convention and the Thermidorian Reaction**
  - ✓ **moderate phase of the French Revolution**
- **government basics**
  - ✓ **led by 5 "Directors"**
  - ✓ **government dominated by bourgeoisie**
  - ✓ **some elements of democracy**
    - **most adult males given the ballot (indirect vote)**
    - **voted for "electors"—usually from bourgeois class**

Lazare Carnot was one of the founding members of The Directory

Stage #3: Collapse of The Directory

- **The Directory: weak government**
  - ✓ politically fragmented with extremes on the left and right
  - ✓ ineffective political leadership
  - ✓ government suffered from major financial problems
    - financial mismanagement by government officials
    - expenses to the French state incurred as a result of the war against Europe
- **The Directory was ended by the Coup d' état of 1799 (18 Brumaire on the Revolutionary Calendar)**
  - ✓ General Napoleon Bonaparte was one of the leaders of the 1799 coup
  - ✓ led to the creation of The Consulate (1799-1804)

Stage #3: Collapse of The Directory

<u>Journal 45</u>: The Directory had enemies to both the right and left.

—Palmer Chapter 45 • pp. 383-88—

<u>Directions</u>; Using sentences or detailed bulleted notes, identify & explain the evidence Palmer uses to support the thesis listed above.

Additional Notes

Sources

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